

REMARKS

This Supplemental Response is submitted in further response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2006, and is supplemental to the previously filed response submitted July 21, 2006. In this Supplemental Response, claims 3, 4, 53 and 59-65 have been amended, and new claims 71-75 have been added. As such, claims 3, 4, 14, 15, 18-22, 29, 30, 34, 36, 40 and 51-75 are presently pending. Applicants respectfully request further consideration of these claims in view of the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 3, 4, 53 and 62 have been amended to define inventions which Applicants consider to be of commercial significance. Support for the amendments to claims 3 and 53 can be found throughout the specification, including for example in paragraph [0014] (essentially not disintegrating). Support for the amendment to claim 4 can be found in paragraph [0014] (passage through gastrointestinal tract) and in paragraph [0021] (removing potassium ion from the gastrointestinal tract by the core-shell particles to obtain a therapeutic and/or prophylactic benefit). Amendments to claims 59 through 61 have been made to claim preferred embodiments; support can be found, for example, in paragraph [0039]. Amendment to claim 62 is supported as described for claims 3, 4 and 53, as further supplemented by as filed claim 19 and previously presented claim 60. Claims 63 through 65 have been amended for consistency with the amendments to claims 3, 4 and 53. No new matter has been added.

New claims 71 through 75 have been added to claim certain inventions which Applicants consider to be of commercial significance. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification, including for example, as follows: for claims 71 and 73 (hydrophobic shell component), see as-filed claim 19; for claim 72 (core component comprising polymer having acidic functional groups and shell component comprising crosslinked synthetic polymer) see paragraphs [0056], [0037]; and for claims 74 and 75, (shell component comprising a crosslinked polymer, the polymer being produced from a vinylic monomer, an acrylic monomer or a methacrylic monomer), see paragraphs [0037] and [0039]. No new matter has been added.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview on August 22, 2006, during which Applicants attorney, Mr. Paul A. Stone (Reg. No. 38,628) and the Examiner discussed: some of Applicants' technology relevant to the inventions defined by the presently pending claims; art of record; proposed claim

amendments to independent claims 1 and 45; outstanding election / restriction issues; and outstanding written description issues. Applicant showed support for favorable reconsideration of the outstanding election / restriction issues and the outstanding written description issues. Agreement was reached with respect to proposed claim amendments, and Applicant agreed to file a supplemental response. The Examiner agreed to enter such amendments, subject to further search.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, considered together with the remarks submitted in the previously filed response date July 21, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in form for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

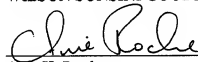
It is submitted that the present application is in form for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 29329-715.201).

Respectfully submitted,

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